

WALDO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT SESSION
(Special Session)
NOVEMBER 19, 2008

PRESENT: Commissioners John M. Hyk, Amy R. Fowler and Donald P. Berry, Sr. Also present were Human Resources/Payroll Director Michelle Wadsworth, Health Insurance Administrator Malcolm Ulmer and County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry, Sr. seconded to enter Executive Session according to Title 1 § 405 (F) at 2:37 p.m. Unanimous.**

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry, Sr. seconded to exit Executive Session at 4:01 a.m. Unanimous.**

Commissioner John M. Hyk excused himself and left the meeting to attend to an unanticipated matter.

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry, Sr. seconded for the County of Waldo to accept Great West Health Care Network as a third network option under the Meritain health insurance plan. Passed by two.**

****A. Fowler moved, D. Berry, Sr. seconded directed Health Insurance Administrator Malcolm Ulmer to look into the three networks and to advise the Commissioners if it may be possible to eliminate one of the networks, to look into the cost of wellness programs, and also to look into the cost of possibly allowing retirees in good standing to continue health coverage. Passed by two.**

M. Ulmer noted that one of the greatest benefits of including Great West Health Care as a third network available to County employees is that Waldo County General Hospital and its affiliates participate with that network, which would resolve the out-of-network issues of many of the employees. Employees would need to check through the list to be sure their providers were participating, and during open enrollment during the whole month of December, would need to complete the form choosing Great West Health Care. If their providers are with one of the other two networks and the employee did not wish to change to Great West Health Care, the employee would be automatically re-enrolled under their current network for 2009. The County Commissioners Office would need to send a memo notifying employees of this option and the need to make a decision before the end of December during the enrollment period.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Reporting correspondence to the Commissioners was County Clerk Barbara L. Arseneau as follows:

1. Robert Howe, MCCA Executive Director, has notified all the Counties that Administrative Director of the Courts Ted Glessner has informed him of a proposed to change 4 M.R.S.A. § 115, requiring counties to provide frees space to the Superior Courts, if that space was provided before 1976. R. Howe stated that in recent years, the District Courts have been holding sessions in at least some Superior Court courtrooms and it was understood that some judges alternate between sitting as Superior Court and as District Court. T. Glessner's view is that this is a "housekeeping" amendment intended to reflect in law what current practice already is. R. Howe did not believe that this change would have a fiscal impact on the counties, but wanted to know if anyone felt otherwise. This language is being presented to the Governor as part of the response from the Judicial Department to the Governor's call for curtailing about \$150 million across state

government in the current fiscal year. R. Howe commented that since this proposal does not save the state any money, he was not sure why they chose to submit it at this time.

B. Arseneau gave a copy to each Commissioner and recommended that they look closely at the language, as she was concerned that it might be a “veiled attempt” to reduce or even eliminate District Court charges, which would impact the County’s revenue. The Commissioners noted that they would review this closely and discuss it later.

Because the court session was running late and another meeting was about to start, B. Arseneau told the Commissioners that the remaining correspondence could wait until the next Commissioners’ Court session.

NEXT COURT SESSION:

The next Commissioners Court Session will be November 25, 2008, starting at 9:00 a.m.

****D. Berry moved, A. Fowler seconded adjourning the meeting at 4:11 p.m. Passed by two.**

Respectfully submitted by _____
Waldo County Clerk